

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06680 071651Z

43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 071515Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT BL

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF LABOR REPORTS HIGH DEGREE OF UNION

ACCEPTANCE OF NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

1. SUBSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, LUIS RENATO VALDICH INFORMED THE LABOR ATTACHE THAT 37 INDIVIDUAL UNIONS HAD NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS FOR INCREASED WAGES WITH THEIR FIRMS. THE AVERAGE INCREASE NEGOTIATED WAS NOT AS HIGH AS THE WORKERS' INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING AS CALCULATED BY THE MINISTRY. VALDICH SAID HE HAD NEVER EXPECTED THAT SO MANY CONTRACTS WOULD HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED BY THIS DATE.

2. VALDICH REPORTS FURTHER THAT WORKERS WHO WERE NOT ORIGINALLY PERMITTED TO NEGOTIATE INCREASES FOR THEMSELVES (FOR EXAMPLE THOSE WHO HAD FIXED-PRICE SUBSIDIZED COMMISSARIES) WOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR WAGE INCREASES. THEIR INCREASES WERE EXPECTED TO BE MODEST COMPARED TO OTHER WORKERS. THE MINE WORKERS FEDERATION, FOR EXAMPLE, IS TALKING WITH COMIBOL ON BEHALF OF THE MINERS IN THE NATIONALIZED MINES.

3. LABATT NOTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS THE MINISTRY'S HALLS WERE NOT JAMMED WITH UNION DELEGATIONS SEEKING

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AUDIENCE WITH VARIOUS MINISTRY OFFICIALS. VALDICH

REPLIED THAT THE MINISTRY HAD SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE
UNIONS TO BARGAIN INDIVIDUALLY AND THAT MOST OF THEM WERE
DOING EXACTLY THAT. WHEN THE CONTRACTS REACHED THE MINISTRY
IN THE LAST STAGES OF NEGOTIATIONS, THEY WERE BEING CARRIED
TO CONCLUSION WITH UNEXPECTED RAPIDITY SO FAR.
STEDMAN

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Disposition Event:
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